

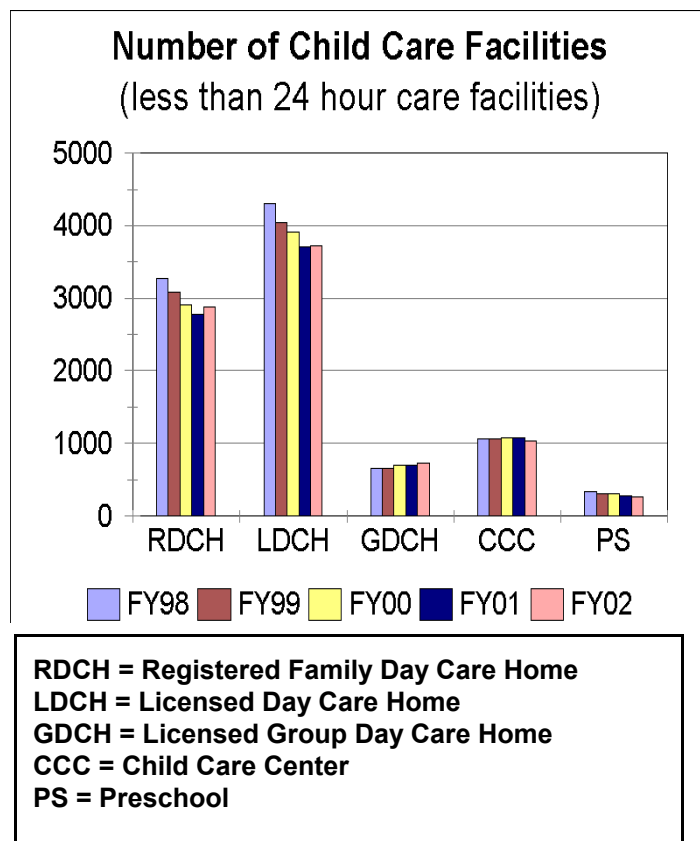
The facts about child care licensing and registration

Child Care Licensing and Registration

In 1919, Kansas passed the law requiring the licensure of programs providing child care services to children. The law arose from the need to protect children from poor environments that put children's health and safety at risk on orphan trains and in homes for unwed mothers. The state, by its actions, acknowledged its responsibility to protect the health, safety and well-being of children in out of home care.

Overtime, changes in the workforce have increased the need for many types of child care facilities. Kansas regulates child care facilities operating less than 24 hours and facilities for 24-hour residential care. In Kansas, facilities operating less than 24 hours includes Registered Family Day Care Homes, Licensed Day Care Homes, Licensed Group Day Care Homes, Preschools, and Child Care Centers including Head Start Centers and School Age Programs. An estimated 130,000 children attend child day care facilities in Kansas.

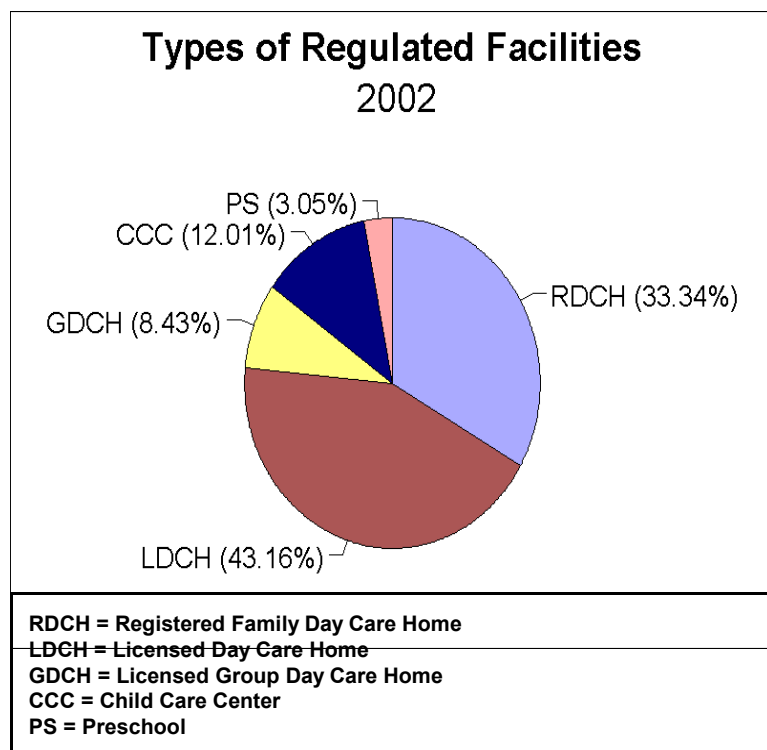
Regulated Child Care Facilities (operating less than 24 hours)



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment was given the authority to license and register child care facilities. The purpose of regulation is to:

- reduce the risk of predictable harm to children while in out of home settings
- provide a basic level of protection for all children
- provide basic consumer protection

The number of child care facilities declined slightly from 1998 to 2000. In 2002, the number of child care facilities changed very little compared to 2001.



Of the 8,787 child day care facilities regulated in 2002, about 85% are home-based child care facilities. Child Care Centers including Head Start Centers and School Age Programs account for 12% of the regulated facilities, while preschools represent the remaining 3% of the types of regulated child day care facilities.

In 2002, regulated child day care facilities had a total licensed capacity to serve 129,900 children on a full-time basis.

Home-based child day care facilities have the capacity to serve 49% of the children in care while child care centers have the capacity to serve 47% of the children in care.

